Regulatory authority for media

1498. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI MURLI DEORA:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an autonomous Regulatory Authority for the media;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the media is resorting to trivialisation and standard of reporting and values have come down;

(d) whether the rural people and the poor hardly get mentioned as it has become urban biased; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the print media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND CULTURE (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Government is contemplating establishment of an autonomous authority to regulate content on TV channels.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has Programme and Advertising Codes which, *inter-alia,* prohibit telecast/broadcast of any programme or advertisement, which contains anything obscene and vulgar. Doordarshan and All India Radio abide by the codes while telecasting/broadcasting their programmes.

The Prasar Bharati Charter and the Parthasarathy Guidelines are being strictly followed by Doordarshan and All India Radio to carry fair and objective news. The reporting of news in Doordarshan and All India Radio is factual, accurate and objective. PCI in its various adjudications has time and again impressed upon the newspapers and periodicals to maintain high standards of Journalism and adhere to the norms laid down by it towards this end.

PCI through its adjudications, studies and reports has attempted to inculcate in the media the need to cater to varied section of the population and to be alive to its social responsibilities.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted/ retransmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals.

(e) Press in India is free from Government control. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalist Ethics. Norm laid down by PCI state that Editors must check the authenticity of each story and comments/versions of all concerned parties must be included. The PCI may warn, admonish or censure the Newspapers, the News Agency, the Editor or the Journalist or disapprove the conduct of the Editor or the journalist, as the case may be, or offending the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or for professional misconduct.

The PCI also takes cognizance *suo moto,* or looks into specific complaints against obscence and vulgar advertisements in print media.

Regulation of news and entertainment channels

†1499. DR.AL.LADI P. RAJKUMAR:
SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of news and entertainment channels telecasting their programmes in the country, the number of channels out of the above which are being operated under Indian ownership and number of having foreign partnership;

(b) whether Government are contemplating for any legal set up for regulation of news and entertainment channels; and

(c) if so, by when such regulation would be framed, if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.